

This Report contains matter of especial interest,
and we earnestly ask the friends of our charity to
give it their kind attention.



REPORT OF AID

GIVEN TO

DESTITUTE MOTHERS AND INFANTS

IN

1902

We testify to the need of this charity, and believe that the money given to it will be faithfully and judiciously expended.

W. L. RICHARDSON, M.D.,
Physician of Boston Lying-in Hospital.

CHARLES P. PUTNAM, M.D.,
Physician of Mass. Infant Asylum.

SARAH E. PALMER, M.D.

OBJECTS AND METHODS OF OUR WORK.

The main points which distinguish this from other charities are : —

1. The working without an institution, and thus coming into personal relations with those whom we help, while we avoid the heavy expenses and cumbrous methods which all institutions require.

If our account of expenditure is examined and compared with that of any home or hospital, it will be seen that, with little expense, we assist a large number of women.

2. Ours is the only charity in Boston which has for its object the assistance of *mothers*, as such, both married and unmarried. Others aid “fallen women,” “friendless girls,” and the like. While including the unmarried among our mothers, we think it more wholesome to aid them as “mothers” than as “fallen.”

3. While the first two points still distinguish us from other charities, with objects, at least, partly similar, our third principle, we are glad to say, has been adopted, to some extent at least, by others.

When we began our work, in 1873, there was in Boston *no* charity intended to care for infants which did not involve the separation of the mother and child. Now there are several which see clearly the advantage of keeping together a mother and infant, even when the mother is unmarried. A woman who is parted from her child is more likely to yield a second time to temptation. One who retains the personal charge of her baby has a wholesome occupation for her mind and heart, and a constant incentive to an upright, industrious life.

The address of Miss Clarke is No. 27 Fayette Street, Boston. Her room (up one flight) is open to any one who desires to consult her, every week-day, 10 to 1 o'clock, and 2.30 to 4.30 P.M.

The address of Miss Parkman is Room 48, Charity Building, Chardon Street, Boston. Her room is open on Monday and Thursday from 2 to 4 P.M., and Saturday morning at 11 o'clock.

REPORT

FOR

1902.

The year 1902 has been an exceptional one in the history of our work, and we earnestly invite the attention of our friends to the present situation.

We have lost by death many friends in the last few years. At the end of the year 1901 died Mrs. William B. Greene, a most faithful and generous friend of this charity. For many years she had paid the salary of the one assistant employed before that period, besides contributing largely to our annual expenses.

We received from her a legacy, from which the income, if invested, would probably be a little more than one hundred dollars.

A portion of this has been employed in paying the salary of one assistant during the year 1902, and the salary of the other assistant has been due to the kindness of one friend who came to our aid in this extremity.

The reasons for employing two assistants are as follows : —

We have long felt that, in order to make our work as effective as it might be made, in order to meet the needs of those whom we are trying to help, we ought to have some place for headquarters, where one of our workers may be consulted without delay at any hour of the day. This necessity has been urged upon us by members of other charities, who often desire to refer cases to us (cases for which our methods are especially adapted), but have not been able to do so, because our

workers could be seen only on certain days and at certain hours. Many of these applicants cannot wait for even one day in order to consult some charity.

If it is asked why there is an advantage in having cases referred to us, some of which might be cared for by one of the institutions doing work somewhat akin to ours, we reply :—

First. A woman whose character is steady enough to be enabled, by a little temporary, personal assistance, to become self-supporting, is injured by becoming the inmate of an institution. And there are many such women. The experience of many years confirms this fact.

Second. When, as above, it is more wholesome for the woman to receive individual, personal aid, it is not good economy to expend upon her the large amount necessary in institutional work, when, assisted by us, about a tenth part of the sum would probably suffice.

As it has been suggested that, if we employed the salaried assistants necessary for making our work complete and effective, we should cease to compare favorably with other charities in regard to expenditure, we, in this report, present the experiment tried in the year 1902 for the first time.

Instead of the *one* assistant (hitherto the only paid worker employed) we engaged two. One of these is at our room, at 27 Fayette Street, every morning ; the other, every afternoon. This makes it possible for an applicant to see one of our workers on any week-day and almost at any hour, and leaves to the worker one-half of every day for necessary visiting, investigation, and other important matters which spring up constantly, and must be attended to at once, if work is to be effective.

In this department of our work, 177 women were assisted, and many more applications received and considered.* There is reason to suppose that the number will be much larger in the year just begun,— 1903.

* In Miss Parkman's branch at Chardon Street 85 were assisted, almost half as many.

We find that we have expended in items \$1,299.19, in assisting 262 mothers and infants. Adding to this the sum necessary for two salaries and rent of rooms, \$1,400 (the room \$200, each salary \$600),* we have \$2,699.19. Does this compare favorably with other charities?

Examining the reports of four institutional charities (to at least three of which our mothers would be likely to apply for help, if we did not exist), we find:—

That one of these assisted in one year 178 applicants, at an expense of \$15,615.85,—an average of about \$87.72 for each case.

Another assisted 58 applicants, at an expense of \$5,667.17,—about \$97.71 for each.

The third assisted 127, expending \$11,438.53,—an expense of \$93.59 for each inmate.

The fourth received 68, expending \$8,022.27,—an average of \$97.50 for each.

To make the comparison as unfavorable to ourselves as possible, we will consider only the branch at Fayette Street where the experiment of salaried assistants was tested. Here the expenditure in items was \$626.35 (including a telephone and half the printing of the annual report). The two salaries and the rent of the room made an actual expenditure of \$1,876.35,—an average of \$10.60 for each woman and child assisted.

We hope it will be understood that we are not criticising the work of these institutions. Some women are better cared for by being placed in a "Home." Some young girls are not capable of earning their own living: some are not steady enough to be trusted alone, and need the shelter of an institution. But there are a large number to whom these limitations do not apply. They are competent to earn their own living: they prefer to do so; they lead, year after year, a perfectly steady, respectable

* It was, in fact, somewhat less than this in 1902, one assistant being engaged some time after the beginning of the year. These figures represent the necessary expenditure, if the plan is continued.

life; often marry well; and for these the personal, temporary aid given by us is the most desirable.

It will be noticed that a large proportion of our mothers need little help in money. A smaller proportion need more; a few, comparatively speaking, a great deal. These are usually cases of illness. We will mention one now on hand:—

An unmarried mother, with a little girl not quite a year old (new in 1902), was sent by us to a very good situation in a country town, to a family consisting of two ladies. She had been there but a few weeks when the family were attacked by a severe form of influenza. The mother, at about the same time, came down with typhoid fever; and the child developed bronchitis and whooping-cough. A child with whooping-cough is not eligible to any institution, even if it could safely be removed to Boston; and the only thing that could be done in such a case was to pay the child's board, in the same neighborhood, with a woman experienced in nursing, whose own child had had the whooping-cough. We have also felt it necessary to share with the family the expense of a nurse engaged by them to attend to their own invalids, but who had also taken care of the child's mother when she became seriously ill.

Expenses of this sort are seldom incurred; but there are often times when temporary aid is needed,—for board during convalescence, or when a mother and infant require shelter for a few days. The average expenditure is small, but the assistance thus given is very important.

There is often a feeling on the part of givers that they do not like to have their money employed in paying salaries. This is reasonable, especially where the primary object of a charity is the direct relief of the worthy, suffering poor. But, in work like ours, the wise handling of the case is essential. It is almost better that it should not be attempted than that it should be done carelessly and ignorantly. We need those who can prac-

tically devote their whole time to the object. Experience has taught us that we cannot rely on volunteer workers to carry on this charity, when those who founded it are no longer here to guide them; and for that reason it ought to be placed on a firm basis as soon as possible. To do this, we need far less, indeed, than the amount expended by institutional charities, but enough to make up for the income lost by the death of friends, and also to provide the salaries of the necessary assistants and the rent of the room, where applicants may be seen every day in the week.

The letters which follow are selected from a large number received during 1902, and are fairly representative. Except where otherwise stated, all are from unmarried mothers:—

I.

Nov. 21, 1902.

Dear Friend Miss M.,—I want to tell you I arrived here safely last night, and find it a pleasant home for baby and I. I do hope I shall stay, as I think I shall. The lady is a very nice person, and I think I shall like her very much. The baby rolls on the floor on a comforter, and is just as happy as he can be. The family consists of three, as you already know. The house is an old-fashioned frame; indeed, it is not old-fashioned, either, for it has been remodelled, and a long piazza all around it. And we are just within three miles of — Mountain,—is that the way you spell it? — and the country is delightful. We had a long five-mile drive from the depot, and the baby slept all the way coming from Boston; and, coming from the station to the house, he was just as good as he could be. I think I am going to get along all right. They have cows, sheep, horses, hens, pigs, cats, and so on, and all their own vegetables. I tell you, it is a regular farm. We are going to have a telephone in the house. Won't that be lovely? They are laying the poles all along the road now, and suppose you will hear from us some day.

Now I have not much more time to write. Please send me a bottle of Eskay's Food. I will be your everlasting friend. . . .

Nov. 28, 1902.

Dear Miss M.,—I received your letter and money, and was pleased to hear from you. I received the food Wednesday. They came all right,

packed nicely in a wooden box with excelsior. Baby is all right now he has his food, but the milk did not agree with him.

I enjoyed Thanksgiving Day very pleasantly. We have 52 sheep, 14 head of cattle, 3 horses, 30 hens, 1 pig. Grandfather was eighty-five last Saturday. We have a school and a church within a half-mile. Mrs. — sends her best regards. Baby and I are enjoying good health. The air is very bracing here. When we have the telephone in, I suppose we will be talking to you over the 'phone.

I remain your loving friend.

2.

AUG. 25, 1902.

Dear Miss L.,—Pardon me for not to answer your dear cheerful letter sooner. The baby and I are in best of health, and hope that these few lines will find you the same. The baby is so cunning, and does so many tricks. You would have died laughing to see him. Mrs. — says she never saw a child to cut up the way he does: he is too cunning for anything. I think he will soon walk. He catches hold of the window-seat, and gets right up on his feet and looks out of the window, and says, "Kittie, mamma." Oh, dear, I shall be so glad when he walks, so I can keep him a little cleaner. I have three dresses to make him,—two flannel and a white one. Mrs. — has made him a very pretty white one: they think that there never was such a lovely baby. Mr. — has made him a present of three beautiful gold pieces for his dresses.

Dear Miss L., I hope you had a good time on your vacation, and feel rested; for I am sure you needed a good rest.

I will now close, with love to you and Miss —, from —. The baby is a year old.

3.

(From a Swede whom we assisted several years ago, when she was an unmarried mother. She has since married.)

AUG. 7, 1902.

Dear Miss L.,—I like to send a few lines to let you know that baby and I are both feeling well. The baby is outdoors a great deal; and she is so sunburnt, and the very picture of health. I am very glad that I came out to the country for baby's sake; for the fresh air is doing her a lot of good, and I like my place very much. I don't have any upstairs work at all; and the folks is so kind, and the children very good.

We were all down the shore this afternoon, and it made the baby so

sleepy that she has been asleep ever since. We got home at four o'clock, and I put her to bed soon afterwards; and now it is nine o'clock, and not awake yet. She is a very good little girl, and growing so fast. When she sees anybody eat, she wants some, too; but I don't dare to give her anything yet, except a small piece of bread now and then.

I have a letter from my husband every week. He wishes to see the baby and me very much. He is very glad that we both are getting along so nicely.

I hope that you enjoyed your vacation, but we did not get very much hot weather during July.

DEC. 27, 1902.

Thank you, ever so much, for your nice and useful presents. I was, indeed, very surprised; but at the same time I ought not to be, as you are always so kind, and I know very well that I can never return your kindness. Mrs. — gave me a nice apron for Christmas, and I think she is a very nice lady; and I like my new place ever so much. The house is very warm, and I wish I could bottle up some heat and send it to the poor.

4.

DEC. 22, 1902.

Dear Miss P.,— It is a long time since I wrote to you, but I remember you just the same. I do not have as much time to write as I used to. You have so many to write to that you won't remember me very well. I have been here 'most three years, and I have wrote to you several times. There is so many poor people that I thought I would like to help one or more if I could, and there is no very poor people here. So I thought I would write to you, for perhaps you would know some. I will send two dollars, and you may use it any way you like for some one that needs it in some way. I only wish it was more. I will send some more some other time. I am one of the girls that come to you. You got me a good home, and I was so thankful for it. I have a home where my mother is, but, when I needed friends most, I had to go among strangers; but, for all, she is the mother God gave me, and I stand by her to the end. I am taking care of an old man ninety-one years old. He is not able to help himself. He had a shock last summer, and I have to feed him as a child. It is not very pleasant, but I am truly thankful for a good home,—that is more than a good many have.

My little girl is 'most three years old. She will be grown up before I know it. I wish I had something to send you; but I am a long way from

the store, and I cannot leave the old man much, so I do not get out very often. I can send you my good wishes, and hope you will have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. You can spend the money any way you choose; and, if it is not too much trouble, will you write and tell me about it? It would please me very much. If every one that could would give a little to relieve the poor, it would help a lot, I am sure. I must close now. Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain,

Your friend.

5.

AUG. 28, 1902.

Dear Miss L.,—I just received your kind and welcome letter, and I was very glad to hear from you. The baby is doing nicely: he looks lots better than he did. I have commenced to put him outdoors. I thought the air would be good for him. He received a present this morning of two dollars from Mr. ——. I thought he was very kind to think of a little baby. You would not know there was a baby in the house, for he is so good,—sleeps all the time after I have got up.

The kitchen looks a little mite better than it did when I came into it. My pastor wants a girl very much to do housework. I go to church every Sunday evening, and I am making friends very rapidly. So far, I think that Mrs. — will keep me this winter by the way she talks. She said by and by I would not find the work so hard, as for this winter that there would only be her and Mr. — most of the time. They have some company now: there are three. They are all very nice to me, and they like the baby. I have not done the washing: they have been having it put out. I just have the baby's and my clothes to do.

I wish I could write better, so you could read my letters better. It must be hard to make this out. I am thinking of you every day, and I will write every time I can get a chance. My Bible that — gave me, it seems more dear to me every day. At nights, when I come up to my room, I pick that up, and read about a chapter before I go to bed. I like that ninety-first Psalm very much. With much love to you, I remain,

Yours truly.

6.

Nov. 16, 1902.

My dear Miss M.,—I received your long-expected letter. I really thought that you had forgotten me, and need not tell you how pleased I was to hear from you. A. is growing a big boy, and goes to school every

day. I am getting along nicely myself, although I have been having treatment all summer from the doctor, but now am feeling much better. These are lovely, beautiful days. How I wished that I could see you! If you go to —, can you stop and see me? We have had lots of fruit this year. I went to Boston the last of May, but did not stop but two days, so did not have time to go and see you; but I thought of you many a time.

Just think! Thanksgiving will soon be here, and I think that the family will go away; and that will leave me alone with my boy, which I shall enjoy, and have a little rest. I did not have any rest all summer, and at times I feel tired; but it is a good tired that I can sleep off. . . . I have been almost six years with Mrs. —. . . .

Good-night, from your fond friend.

Lots of love from us both.

7.

DEC. 22, 1902.

Dear Miss M.,—I think you are very kind in wanting to give E. something. I am sure you have done enough for us both; but, if it would please you to give her some little thing, I am sure it will be kindly received. At the present time she has got plenty of warm dresses; but I am going to make some little aprons for her this winter to put over her little dresses. I put two clean dresses on her every day, and sometimes I have to put on three; and it makes a lot of work for me, and the aprons would help very much.

She minds just as well as ever; and sometimes, when she don't, I will just take her up and tell her she must mind me when I speak to her, and that I will not love her if she don't and nobody else will, and she understands me just as well. Then she will put her arms around my neck and kiss me, and I will say, "Will you mind me when I speak to you again?" and she will shake her head and say, "Yes."

Just think, I have gained eighteen pounds since I came down here. I never was so well in my life as I am at the present time. I do not have to work hard, and the place is so homelike. Mrs. — is always trying to make it as pleasant as she can for me. I do not know how I am ever going to thank you for getting me such a nice place.

Dear Miss M., you have been so good to baby and I that I feel as if I ought to give you some little gift. So I am sending you a little Christmas present, and I hope you will like it.

Wishing you a merry, merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Your loving friend.

SEPT. 26, 1902.

Dear Miss L.,—I am going to write you a few lines, as mamma promised you I should; but, to tell the truth, I hardly know what to say. To begin, I was very sorry about the misunderstanding of your place in regard to the taking of children. Mamma felt very sorry about it, but I told her I did not think you were angry with her for our being misinformed. Of course I was very much disappointed, for it took all the courage I could get together to say I would give my baby up, and at the last I had decided to, and try to think the best of it; and, when I again got upset on the question, it came pretty hard to me. Heaven knows I do not want to part with it; and I have suffered a great deal, and have (I suppose) still more to go through, and I would like to have the satisfaction of having what I suffer for, if it is spared to me. If not, I will try to be content.

As I tell mamma, it must be hard to try to work and look after an infant, and all; but I suppose I have no other way open to me, and must be satisfied. However, we will let the matter rest, and see how things will turn out; but I should like to hear from you, and will see what the future brings. I am

Truthfully yours.

OCT. 9, 1902.

Dear Miss L.,—I am very much ashamed at not answering your letter before now; but I did not think it was so long since you had written me, until mamma received your letter this morning. I have no excuse to offer for my neglect except that I am lazy; for, although I do not feel very well, I am at least well enough to write, and hope you will pardon my delay this time.

Now, in your letter to mamma, you spoke of coming to ——. I wish you would come before I go to the hospital, as I would like to talk to you ever so much. I don't much care whether I live or not. I would be pleased to know you were looking out for a place for me, for the reason that, when I leave the hospital, I have nowhere to go. My mother has been very kind to me, but my father would not listen to my coming back home; and my mother and sister would be worried that any one might hear or see the child. And, as I have no other place to go, you cannot wonder that I do not care what becomes of me when the time comes. Folks say not to keep the baby, and all such talk; but they don't say they will pay its board or

help me get work or anything else, except, "Give it up, and you will be better off."

Hoping you will excuse this writing, and also my delay,
I am ever yours.

Nov. 12, 1902.

Dear Miss L.,—I suppose you think it time you received an answer to your welcome letter, and so do I. At the time your letter reached me I was still at the hospital; and, since I have been home, I have not felt at all well until the last few days, and now I am picking up a little. You said, in your letter, that I must be glad to be at home again; but I tell you, Miss L., I cannot find words to express how glad I am to be with my dear mamma, after thinking I had to be separated from her. Oh, dear, if I had to be separated from her forever, I think it would kill me! My dear baby gets along fine, and is a lovely big boy. He weighed ten pounds when I left the hospital; and I think, with the good care and nourishment we are getting at home, he must have gained two or three pounds more. He is very fat and very, very good. Since I have had him, I think so many times, How could I ever entertain so much as a thought of putting him from me! I would work on a wash-board every day in the week now, if I had to, rather than have him a day away from me. You do not know how I love that dear baby, and how I pray that he will be spared to me. I suffered terribly for him, but I love him more than my life.

Now, Miss L., I thank you just as much as if you had given me a thousand dollars and more for your kindness; and I do hope you will come and see me and my dear baby, and excuse my delay in answering. Write often, and don't wait for me to come in, as I won't venture out this winter; but I enjoy your letters ever so much. I will close, hoping to hear from you soon. I am yours.

DEC. 26, 1902.

Dear Miss L.,—Just a line to let you know I received your kind offering; and I do not know what to say, I am sure. I was very much surprised when I got it, as I thought you must be displeased about something, as I received no answer to my last letter to you; but, when I got your presents, I felt different. I was so happy to think you thought of my poor little baby. I hope some day he will be able to understand how good and kind you have been to him and his mother. I shall always thank you, Miss L., for having my little one left with me. When I think of the day mamma went to you, thinking you would take the baby, and found you

would not, I thank God from my heart that you didn't; for he alone knows how I prayed for him to be left me. And I have found him lots of comfort so far, even if he does take lots of time and attention. I know you would think him a dear baby if you could see him. He is very fat and well, and my heart and soul is in him; and I truly hope he will be spared to me.

Mamma wishes me to remember her to you, and she thanks you ever so much for your kindness to us. Mamma does not feel very well; and papa is out of work, and of course mamma worries a good deal over it.

Now, thanking you for your goodness, which I appreciate very, very much, I will close, hoping you will try to come and see us as soon as you can. I wish you a happy New Year and all the prosperity you can have. I must tell you what baby got. A lady who lives near by gave him the makings of two slips, one hemstitched, the other embroidered. The girl who works for this lady gave him two new, nice shirts; and mamma gave him a little worsted jacket and a pair of bootees. So you see he fared exceedingly well, and I felt quite proud.

Now I will say good-bye, and hope to hear from you soon.

Ever yours.

9.

AUG. 3, 1902.

Miss M., my dear Friend,—As I'm getting along all right, I thought that I would write and let you know. It is fine here. I like it very much. I had my baby baptized Wednesday in the Catholic church, and Sunday I went to church. And I want to ask you if you would send one of them two waists that you gave me, and stockings? and will you please get me a light hat and send it all to me? and, when I get my money, I will pay you back.

I love you because you are so kind. I think it is good to get four dollars a month and your baby's clothes and your clothes, too. You must come and see me next week, and see how my baby has improved.

From . . .

Many kisses from the baby.

OCT. 26, 1902.

I am glad to hear from you, my dear friend, so I thought that I would write you a few lines to let you know that I am well, hoping you are well. A. is well, too. He is getting to be a great big boy. He is just fine now.

He weighs eighteen pounds and three ounces. He is not going to be weighed any more because he is too large. He laughs and talks; but he has not got his teeth, because he is not old enough. I have got one pretty little skirt. It is very pretty. I am getting a nice little trunk for his clothes. I am going to put five dollars in the bank. Will you send me a pretty little dress for him? Send me something pretty, something I can call his pet dress. I always think of you, don't you forget me. Good-bye.

From . . .

To M., my loving friend.

10.

DEC. 1, 1902.

Dear Miss L.,—I received your very kind letter yesterday, and was so pleased. I had a very sore throat since I wrote that card, and, being Thanksgiving, I had to keep up; but my head was too sick to write. I am all right now. I hated to wean L. awfully; but, when the doctor explained to me, of course I gave in. She took it very hard at first, cried a lot at night, but takes her bottle like an angel now. I wish you could see her, Miss L., to-night: she is just as handsome and fat as she can be, and is never cross. She is getting her teeth fast. When I get up in the morning, I tuck her up, and she goes to sleep until breakfast is over. Then I wash and dress her, and take her downstairs for about two hours until she gets sleepy. Then her bottle and bed until dinner is over. Up until five, and then to bed until I go upstairs for the night. The doctor thinks I have trained her beautifully, but you could not do that with every child. L. is such a good baby, and well and happy. If anything happened to her, I should not want to live: she is my all in all.

Mrs. — is very good. She gave her two pretty dresses and a nice bonnet and cloak. Since I wrote you last, Mrs. — has been in bed two weeks with a throat trouble. She celebrated her tenth wedding anniversary since I came with a dinner party, and she had a very nice dinner last night also. I had a good deal to thank the Lord for this Thanksgiving,—my little girl's good health and a good home,—and I am very conscious of not deserving it. I cannot help telling you as I look at her, L. is such a dainty baby, Miss L. Too bad she has not a good father to appreciate her. If he just saw her once, he would love her forever. I hope dear H.* will be all right. I am going to save all L.'s good things for her.

If it is not too much trouble, would you find out how much a medium-sized sewing machine costs, also the best kind. I have to sit up too late hand-sewing, and a machine will help me lots.

* Another patient.

My little girl is stirring, so I will say good-night. With lots of love from baby and her mother.

11.

SEPT. 18, 1902.

Dear Miss M.,—I received your letter, and was indeed glad to hear that you had so happy a vacation. It must have been very pleasant to be so near the sea, and hear the waves lapping the shore, and, if you got up early enough in the morning, to watch the sun rise over the water. I always thought I preferred the seashore to the country, and I think I still incline that way; but the latter is very beautiful also. The leaves are beginning to fall now, however; and there is something sad about that. The grapes are ripening, and hanging in clusters over our heads, just outside the kitchen door; and peaches and pears are decaying all around us, for the want of some one to eat them. I often think of some of the poor people in the city who are longing for a little of the fruit that is wasted here. The baby and I have all we can eat, and she just loves the peaches. She says "peach" now and "all right," and runs all through the house still, in her little bare feet.

I have been waiting to hear from you, but I suppose you have not yet made any arrangement for a change. They have never said a word since about my going until to-day. Mrs. — asked the baby what would grandma (herself) do when her little girl would be gone?

I am beginning to feel anxious about my sister. She has never written to me since, and I do not know where she is. Will you kindly write a postal or letter, and let me know?

Baby is quite well, and is sound asleep upstairs, while I am writing. She is very little trouble now, but amuses herself nearly all day long. Hoping you are quite well, I am,

Yours sincerely.

OCT. 12, 1902.

Our first Sunday in —, a very rainy one so far; although it looks now as if it might clear up before night. We are here in the midst of the woods almost, with only half a dozen of houses in sight. But it is very pleasant out of doors, when the sun is shining and the blue vapor rises to the tops of the trees near by and the hills in the distance. We arrived here safely about noon on Tuesday, although the directions were not quite right, and I had to pay three fares on the electrics instead of two. Mr. — could not come to meet us, so I had to walk almost a mile up to the

house. I received your kind letter, and was glad to know that one person in the world was interested in our welfare.

I am busy from morning till night, up to nine o'clock last night. They burn wood, and it seems to me I am running after wood all the time. I do not know what it will be like when there are three stoves going. It is nice and warm and comfortable, and baby has some milk and a fresh egg every day. The air is very pure and sweet, and she ought to thrive well. She has a cold since we came, but seems better a little to-day. You think, as I do, that regularity with the baby is the only way. . . .

Dear Miss M., I thank you with all my heart for getting baby such a good home, even if I have to work pretty hard; and sincerely hope I will be able to keep it as long as I shall need it.

Hoping you are well, and as happy as you deserve to be, I am,

Yours truly.

The following letters are from employers. Except No. 7, all are in regard to unmarried mothers; and, except No. 5, none speak of those whose own letters have been given. Thus each represents a separate case.

I.

DEC. 30, 1902.

My dear Miss L.,— — has been with us now for over a week, and I think by this time she has worked out her reference.

Mr. — and I are very favorably impressed with — so far, and feel confident that she will continue as she now is. W. is growing very large, and is a very good baby. She was delighted with your Christmas gift. I hope she is satisfied here, as we like her very much.

Thanking you for bringing her to me, and wishing you great success in your work, I am,

Sincerely yours.

2.

SEPT. 28, 1902.

My dear Miss M.,— I am very glad to be able to give you good news of —. She is doing well, is quick, good-natured and willing, is neat about her person and work; and we like her very much. She seems to be perfectly contented, and, I trust, will be willing to stay with me for a long time.

The baby is well. She is good, and requires little attention, often amus-

ing herself on the floor for an hour at a time. — is quite sensible in her method of training her, and the little thing has become dear to us all. I hope the influences that surround mother and child may be wholly of good; for I think, from what — says of her home, she has seen some hard times and people.

I wish to thank you for the interest you have taken; and I shall keep you informed if anything should occur which will affect —'s life. Such work as yours must be very satisfactory, and I am sure you are doing a great deal of good.

Very cordially yours.

3.

SEPT. 30, 1902.

Dear Miss M.,— — has been a great help to us this summer, and she tries so hard to learn. We have been very much pleased with her. And the baby! she is just as cunning as she can be, and so healthy. She is a great big girl now, has been in short dresses for two months.

— encloses a note to you.

Sincerely yours.

4.

DEC. 19, 1902.

Dear Miss M.,— I should have answered your letter before, but was waiting to get H.'s picture to send to you. Enclosed please find it with this letter. You will see that she has grown a good deal. She has eight teeth, and is running all around. What few words she can speak are in English.

Her mother is well. She has never been sick a day since she has been here. I think she enjoys being on a farm, and H. cries to go outdoors every time she sees her mother getting ready to go.

— has been making H. some flannel dresses to wear this winter: now she is working on one for another summer. She is quite handy with her needle. Made herself two wrappers this fall. She cuts and makes all of H.'s clothes.

I do not think of anything in the way of clothing that they really need. Any little thing from you they would enjoy at Christmas time. — sends her love to you.

5.

MAY 13, 1902.

Dear Miss M.,— I have not written before, as everything seemed to go along so smoothly. I like —, and feel she is a worthy woman and one that you can help, and the baby is sweet and dear: one could not help

liking her. She is having some teeth now. Can creep all over the room, and is improving fast. I feel very much interested in both. — is doing well with her cooking, and I shall give her more wages now.

By and by, when we get our house cleaned and the weather is warmer, shall be glad to have you run down and see us. Pleased to hear from you at any time.

6.

JUNE 9, 1902.

My dear Miss M., — — has thus far done very nicely for us. She is not an accomplished cook, and is rather slow; but she tries to do as my sister wishes, is pleasant and obliging, so we are going to keep her. The baby seems to be healthy, and looks better than when she came. If you could get a baby carriage for her, it would be very nice. Then she could stay out of doors warm, pleasant days, and be moved about in favorable places.

— still has a good deal to learn. She is slow, and does not bring the meals to a focus very well; but probably she will learn that. She is quite a good laundress, and seems neat and clean.

Thanking you for your kindness.

7.

JUNE 4, 1902.

Mrs. — and the baby are very well. Little A. has gained in flesh since he came to the country. She has him out in the carriage every day that is pleasant. He is a very good baby.

Mrs. — seems to be quite contented so far. I assure you, I like her very much: she is very willing and agreeable to get along with.

When it is convenient for you, we will be pleased to have you take a trip out to our country home. Kindly drop us a note the train you come on. We can meet you at the station. I remain,

Yours truly.

8.

MAY 9, 1902.

Miss L., my dear Madame,— I ask pardon for not writing earlier to tell you about the cook for whom we are indebted to you. I have been ill, and unable to write many of the days since she came to us.

I am sure you will be glad to learn that she is doing very nicely, and we are entirely satisfied. She is an excellent cook, and after the first two weeks has planned the meals almost entirely, seeming to prefer to do so.

She plans her work well, and does not shirk it; is strong, and so far willing to do everything she has been asked to do.

I have paid her twenty-five cents a week extra, as there was some house-cleaning to do. The baby has been a model of good nature, and I fear my children will spoil her. Fortunately, I had a crib which — has put beside her bed, and a cradle which she uses in the kitchen; and my daughter has found a second-hand baby-carriage which — bought for a dollar and a half. The Ladies' Sewing Society connected with the (Unitarian) church which we attend are making some short clothes for the baby, from materials which — bought.

She has been away from the house but two afternoons, though we are willing she should take more time, but does not appear to care to go out much. I hope she will remain as happy and satisfactory for a long time. Of course, we expect the baby to take more time when she can run about.

With gratitude to you, I am,

Most respectfully.

The following note is from the visitor of a benevolent society. The young girl of whom she speaks, nineteen years old, was received back by her mother after we had given her some help: —

DEC. 22, 1902.

My dear Miss M.,— I have at last called upon the — family. I saw — fat and rosy; and she took me out to see the baby, also plump, and very sweet and clean.

— says she is working in the mill, is well and content. The old mother smiled upon me, though she couldn't say a word;* but I couldn't help noticing how different her expression was from the anxious look she wore last time I saw her.

— said she thought of you all the time, and would like to write to you, only she could not write English. She said she would try to get some one to write to her, so I hope you may hear directly soon.

I think you would be pleased to see the family now. I hope you will have another errand for me some day.

Very sincerely.

* The family are foreigners.

It ought to be explained that the surplus on hand, shown in our accounts January 1 every year, does not mean that we have more money than we need for our current expenses. A large part of this is received late in the year, and is the fund on which we depend for our support during the first three or four months of the new year, before our subscriptions are received in answer to the report, usually printed about April 1.

LILIAN F. CLARKE.

MARY R. PARKMAN.

SARAH H. WILLIAMSON.

Council.

MRS. CHARLES G. AMES.

*MRS. ELIOT C. CLARKE.

MRS. GEELEY S. CURTIS.

MISS LOUISA L. DRESEL.

MRS. CHRISTOPHER R. ELIOT.

MRS. JAMES G. FREEMAN.

MRS. J. H. MORISON.

MRS. W. B. KEHEW.

MISS ROSE LAMB.

*MRS. C. J. PAINE.

DR. SARAH E. PALMER.

DR. SARAH R. STOWELL.

MRS. W. L. WAKEFIELD.

MRS. J. B. WARNER.

MOTHERS ASSISTED IN 1902.

Old cases (continued from 1901)	87
New cases (first taken in 1902)	<u>175</u>
Whole number assisted in 1902	<u>262</u>
Married women (new cases)	89
Unmarried women (new cases)	<u>86</u>
	<u>175</u>
Married women (old cases)	41
Unmarried women (old cases)	<u>46</u>
	<u>87</u>
Married women (old cases)	41
Married women (new cases)	<u>89</u>
	<u>130</u>
Unmarried women (old cases)	46
Unmarried women (new cases)	<u>86</u>
	<u>132</u>

NATIONALITY OF OLD CASES.

(Married.)

American	8
Irish	10
Irish-American	2
British Provinces	5
English	3
Scotch	2
German	1
Swedish	1
Armenian	1
Portuguese	1
Colored	3
German-American	2
Italian-American	1
Spanish-American	1
	<u>41</u>

(Unmarried.)

American	6
Irish	11
Irish-American	9
British Provinces	8
English	1
Scotch	2
Swedish	3
German	1
Colored	2
Scotch-Irish	1
German-American	1
French-American	1
	<hr/>
	46
	<hr/>

NATIONALITY OF NEW CASES.

(Married.)

American	23
Irish	15
Irish-American	2
British Provinces	24
English	6
Scotch	3
German	1
Swedish	6
Colored	6
Hungarian	1
English-American	1
Unrecorded	1
	<hr/>
	89
	<hr/>

(Unmarried.)

American	22
Irish	8
Irish-American	16
British Provinces	20
English	1
German	2
French	2
Swedish	1
Italian	1
Colored	7

Scotch-Irish	I
English-Irish	I
German-American	I
English-American	I
French-American	I
Finnish	I
	<hr/>
	86
	<hr/>
American	22
Other nationalities	64
	<hr/>
	86
	<hr/>

AGES OF NEW CASES.

(Unmarried.)

17 years old	3
18 " "	5
19 " "	8
20 " "	9
21 " "	12
22 " "	8
23 " "	14
24 " "	4
25 " "	6
26 " "	3
27 " "	4
28 " "	3
29 " "	2
30 " "	I
Over 30	I
Unrecorded	3
	<hr/>
	86
	<hr/>

RECEIVED DURING 1902.

Miss Fannie Bartlett . . .	\$25.00	Mrs. Joseph Lee . . .	\$25.00
Mrs. S. Parkman Blake . .	10.00	Arthur T. Lyman . . .	50.00
Mrs. John L. Bremer . . .	50.00	Mrs. Theodore Lyman . .	20.00
Mrs. E. B. Bryant . . .	25.00	Mrs. Thomas Mack . . .	5.00
Mrs. James B. Case . . .	100.00	Miss Ida M. Mason . . .	50.00
Mrs. Richard Cary . . .	10.00	Mrs. John H. Morison . .	5.00
Mrs. Frederic Simmons Clark,	10.00	Miss Amelia Morrill . . .	10.00
Miss Cora H. Clarke . . .	20.00	Andrew Nickerson . . .	10.00
Mrs. Charles R. Codman . .	10.00	Mrs. John Parkinson . . .	25.00
Mrs. Julian Codman . . .	10.00	F. H. Peabody . . .	20.00
Miss Collamore . . .	10.00	Mrs. Dudley L. Pickman . .	25.00
Mrs. David H. Coolidge . .	10.00	Mrs. J. P. Putnam . . .	10.00
Mrs. J. Randolph Coolidge .	10.00	Mrs. Neal Rantoul . . .	10.00
Miss Alice Cotting . . .	5.00	Dr. William L. Richardson .	50.00
Mrs. Charles P. Curtis . . .	25.00	Miss Marian Russell . . .	25.00
Mrs. Greeley S. Curtis . . .	20.00	Mrs. F. R. Sears . . .	10.00
Miss Isabella P. Curtis . .	5.00	Mrs. G. Howland Shaw . .	10.00
Mrs. James C. Davis . . .	10.00	Mrs. Henry S. Shaw . . .	10.00
Miss Caroline A. Derby . .	5.00	Mrs. R. H. Stevenson . . .	10.00
Mrs. Franklin Dexter . . .	10.00	Mrs. Frederic Stone . . .	10.00
Mrs. Samuel Eliot . . .	10.00	Miss E. H. Storer . . .	20.00
Mrs. James T. Fields . . .	10.00	Mrs. Solomon P. Stratton .	5.00
Mrs. James G. Freeman . .	10.00	Mrs. John B. Tileston . . .	5.00
A Friend . . .	1.00	Miss M. S. Walker . . .	25.00
Miss Harriet Gray . . .	25.00	Mrs. Joseph B. Warner . .	5.00
Mrs. Francis B. Greene . .	10.00	Mrs. William F. Weld . . .	20.00
Henry S. Grew . . .	25.00	Mrs. Edward Wheelwright .	20.00
Mrs. John Hitchcock . . .	40.00	Miss Amy White . . .	5.00
Mrs. John Homans . . .	10.00	Mrs. S. H. Winkley . . .	25.00
F. W. Hunnewell . . .	25.00	Mrs. Moses Williams . . .	5.00
Mrs. David P. Kimball . .	100.00		

DONATIONS OF CLOTHING.

Miss Lucy W. Baxter.	Mrs. Pitblado.
Mrs. Julian Codman.	Miss M. H. Sharples.
Miss Edith Gilman.	A Friend.
Dr. Julia Grice.	Church of the Disciples' Benevolent
Mrs. John Hitchcock.	Committee.
Mrs. J. H. Morison.	Boston Needlework Guild.
M. E. M.	King's Chapel Employment Society.
E. M.	"S. S. C." (Sewing Circle).

OTHER GIFTS.

A baby carriage	Mrs. George M. Nash
A baby carriage	Mrs. Leslie Brock
A high chair	Mrs. E. A. Clarke

DESTITUTE MOTHERS AND INFANTS IN ACCOUNT WITH
SARAH H. WILLIAMSON, *Treasurer.*

<i>Dr.</i>	
To board of women	\$620.26
Board of children	91.50
Clothing of women and children	150.44
Fares and travelling	119.72
Milk and food	20.76
Advertising	42.90
Doctors' bills and medicine	10.01
Expresses	20.25
Stationery and postage stamps	65.21
Printing report	42.69
Sundries	59.70
Rent of room for patients	5.25
Money given to patients	20.50
Telephone	30.00
Expended in 1902	\$1,299.19
* Salary of two assistants	1,050.00
Rent of room at Fayette Street	200.00
Balance to new account	698.61
	<u>\$3,247.80</u>

<i>Cr.</i>	
Jan. 1, 1902, cash on hand	\$699.36
By subscriptions during 1902	1,171.00
Gift of friend (E.) for salary of assistant	600.00
From legacy of Mrs. W. B. Greene, salary of assistant	425.00
L. F. C., salary of assistant	25.00
Miss L. L. Dresel, rent of room at Fayette Street	100.00
Miss C. H. Clarke, rent of room at Fayette Street	100.00
Interest on bond	50.00
Income from legacy of Mrs. W. B. Greene	71.69
Interest on money in bank	2.50
Repaid by mothers assisted	3.25
	<u>\$3,247.80</u>

Subscriptions may be sent to MRS. WILLIAM C. WILLIAMSON, 370 Marlborough Street, or to DR. C. P. PUTNAM, 63 Marlborough Street, Boston, Mass.

* We wish to call attention to the fact that the amounts paid for salaries and for rent of the room at Fayette Street were given for those especial objects. They were not taken from the subscriptions.

